

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMILT 00223 122118Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 223
E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: MASS, BD
SUBJECT: US TRAINING FOR BERMUDA REGIMENT
REF: (A) STATE 112795

(B) TELCON WOOLFLEY/RAND, 9 MAY 1978

1. IN MY CALLS ON BOTH THE GOVERNOR AND PREMIER MORNING OF MAY 10, I CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL. THEY WERE BOTH PLEASED THAT THEIR REQUEST PRODUCED SUCH QUICK AND FAVORABLE RESULTS. GOVERNOR SEES NO PROBLEM IN COMPLYING WITH US REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS RE FORMAL REQUEST AND EVENTUAL EXECUTION OF FMS CONTRACT. HE WILL OBTAIN NECESSARY DETAILS FROM REGIMENTAL COMMANDER RE SIZE OF GROUP, TIME AND DURATION, ETC. (PARA1, REF A) AND INFORM ME FURTHER NEXT WEEK. BOTH GOVERNOR AND PREMIER WERE CONCERNED WITH WHAT THE "OTHER COSTS, INCLUDING COSTS OF TRAINING" MIGHT TOTAL.

2. THE BERMUDA REGIMENT IS CURRENTLY A FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 500 MEN. THE RANKS ARE FILLED ON A CONSCRIPTION BASIS FROM THE 18 THROUGH 30-YEAR AGE GROUP ON THE ISLAND. LENGTH OF SERVICE IS THREE YEARS DURING WHICH PERIOD THEY ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND 40 TWO-HOUR DRILLS PER YEAR AND OCCASIONAL WEEK-END DRILLS ON THE ISLAND. THE OVERSEAS ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE OCCURS ONCE FOR EACH SOLDIER, NORMALLY DURING HIS SECOND YEAR OF SERVICE, I.E., APPROXIMATELY 175 PER EXERCISE. THEY ARE PAID THIRTEEN DOLLARS PER DAY DURING WEEK-END AND ANNUAL EXERCISES.

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3. THE MANDATE OF THE REGIMENT AT THIS POINT IN TIME IS PRIMARILY TO ASSIST THE 400 MAN CIVIL POLICE FORCE IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY, I.E., CIVIL DISTURBANCES OR NATURAL DISASTERS. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE GOVERNOR'S TRADITIONAL POLICE POWERS HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO GOB (MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS), GOVERNOR STILL HAS OVER-ALL AUTHORITY OVER BOTH POLICE AND REGIMENT. THE REGIMENT CONTINUES TO PERFORM ITS TRADITIONAL

CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS ON HOLIDAYS AND OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

4. THE CABINET POSITION OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELATIONS WITH THE BERMUDA REGIMENT WAS CREATED AT THE TIME OF CABINET REORGANIZATION IN DECEMBER 1977 (HAMILTON 573). UNLIKE HIS RECENT SUBSTANTIVE DELEGATION OF SOME POLICE POWERS TO MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, GOVERNOR WAS PRECLUDED BY BERMUDA CONSTITUTION FROM DELEGATING ANY OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE BERMUDA REGIMENT. THE HOLDER OF THE PORTFOLIO, THEREFORE, MERELY HAS RESPONSIBILITY AS PRINCIPAL LIAISON BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA. IN THE GOVERNOR'S OWN WORDS THE PORTFOLIO WAS CREATED FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES TO IMBUE THE GOB WITH SOME AURA OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGIMENTAL AFFAIRS.

5. I WILL TRANSMIT DETAILS REQUESTED IN PARA 1 REFTTEL ASAP.

RAND

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